

# WSDOT NEW PRODUCTS EVALUATION PROGRAM

The Washington State Department of Transportation New Products Evaluation Program was formed to provide a focal point for evaluating the large number of innovative products that are continually being developed for highway construction and maintenance use. The approving authority for new products is the New Products Evaluation Committee (NPEC), which consists of the Asst. Secy. for Field Operations Support, the State Materials Engr., State Design Engr., State Traffic Engr., Bridge & Strs. Engr., Research Director, Chief Maint. Engr., and a Regional Operations Engineer.

The New Products evaluation system must be used to obtain formal approval of new products submitted for use on any WSDOT construction or Maintenance project. All products, especially safety items, need to be logged into the system and approved, or currently under evaluation, before they can be purchased. The New Products program should not be confused with the Qualified Products Program. In general, a New Product is defined as *not having* an existing WSDOT Standard Specification or General Special Provision that applies to it. While in contrast, an applicable WSDOT Std. Spec. or GSP *does exist* for a Qualified Product.

The product manufacturer or vendor (product rep.) initiates the evaluation process by requesting a New Product Evaluation Application, which is available from the State Materials Lab., as listed below, or from other Department staff. The product rep. then completes the application and submits it to the State Materials Engineer. The coordinator for the NPEC reviews the application and, if completed correctly, logs it into the New Products system and determines the appropriate category for the product. A list of the twenty-six different product categories is attached.

The application is then forwarded to the technical contact (evaluator) within the WSDOT office most qualified to evaluate the product. The evaluator reviews the product application and supporting literature then provides a recommendation to the NPEC, who meets once every two months to review these findings and recommendations. At the NPEC meetings, the Committee determines appropriate action, which may include the following:

- Agrees with the evaluator to not consider the product.
- Disagrees with the evaluator to not consider the product, and requests more information in order to decide on the course of action.
- Agrees with the evaluator to consider the product and provides direction on the level of interest and the appropriate level of evaluation.
- Requests for more information may include lab testing and/ or field testing.
- Ultimately, the Committee provides appropriate direction regarding approval or disapproval of all new products.

An index of all new products within the New Products program is attached. This index is in alphabetical order by product name, along with the product number and status. The product number includes an alpha character which indicates the category a product falls into. The next two numbers indicate the year the product was introduced and the sequential number of the product that was introduced that year. This index will be updated after each NPEC meeting.

Regarding questions about New Products and requests for evaluation applications, please contact:

Mike Miner  
Special Projects Manager

Washington State Department of Transportation  
Field Operations Support Service Center  
Materials Laboratory  
P. O. Box 47365  
Olympia, WA 98504-7365

Phone: (360) 709- 5472  
Internet: [hpg@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:hpg@wsdot.wa.gov)  
FAX: (360) 709-5588

Product Category Icon
-----------------------------

Product Index Icon
--------------------------